APR 1 6 1999 ESTABLEMENT

146.1275

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OF

In re Application of: F. MAKISHIMA, et al Serial No. 19945,459

Filed: October 20, 1997

For: NOVEL PROTEIN...THE SAME

BECEIVED

D. Romeo

Group: 1646

600 Third Averue New York N.Y. 1001 April 16, 1999

**AMENDMENT** 

Asst. Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the office action of January 5, 1999, please amend this application as follows:

APR 2 9 1000

IN THE ABSTRACT:

MATRIX CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

Cancel the present Abstract and insert the Abstract submitted Herewith on a separate sheet of paper.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (amended) A protein [having] consisting of the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID No: 1 [of the Sequence Listing].

Claim 2 (amended) A [homodimer] protein according to claim 1 wherein said protein is a homodimer.

Claim 3 (amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating cartilage and/or bone disease comprising [a therapeutically effective] an amount of the protein according to claim 2 effective to treat cartilage and/or bone diseases and a pharmaceutical carrier.

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